

# ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS

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P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

Winter, 1990-91 No. 11

JOIN US FOR OUR  
ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S  
DAY POT-LUCK  
PICNIC ON  
ROSE ISLAND



Yep, we're going to try it again! This is your invitation to join us for our annual New Year's Day pot-luck picnic on Rose Island. Members and friends, and even would-be friends, are all welcome! Sounds crazy? Actually, when the weather cooperates, you don't need half the courage or stamina you'd think (you see, if the weather isn't just right, we don't even try it!) But if we do go out, it is the most wonderful and most memorable way to ring in the New Year!

We'll provide the boat, which will leave from the Goat Island Marina gas dock at 11:00 AM to return about 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 1. Also, we'll have a big bonfire at the lighthouse to keep you warm, a grill on which you can warm kettles and casseroles, plus paper plates, napkins, cups, bowls, etc.

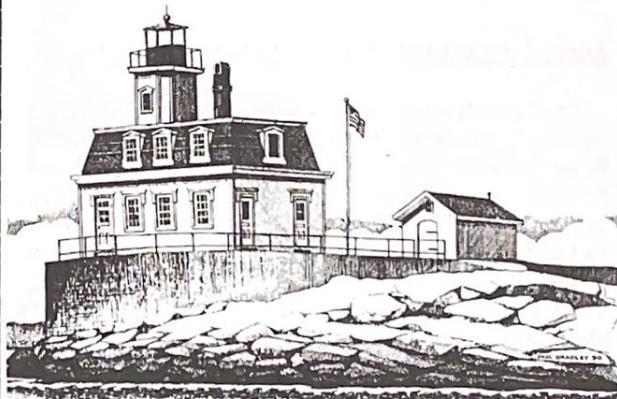
You'll need to dress warmly and to bring something to drink and something to share. Hot cider and cocoa, beans, soups, chowders, stews, and hot dogs are perfect, along with all kinds of sandwiches, salads and desserts.

We look to Mother Nature to bring us a calm, sunny day. If you're unsure about the weather or need more information, please call Charlotte at 847-4454.

## STATE TO BECOME LIGHTHOUSE'S NEIGHBORS

In September it was announced that the CMTS Partnership (owners of the rest of Rose Island) had agreed to sell their property to the state Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for \$1.1 million. According to DEM, the sale should be finalized after the first of the year. DEM will get the money to buy CMTS's land from the environmental bonds which were overwhelmingly approved by voters in 1989.

The Lighthouse Foundation's board of directors is eager to start a dialogue with the state to find out how we can help with their plans to make the entire island available to the public as part of the Bay Islands Park System. In the meantime, we want to remind our members and friends that until DEM makes things official, only the lighthouse property is public.



ROSE ISLAND NOTE CARDS are now available for sale, thanks to Paul Bradley of Ft. Lauderdale. A real lighthouse buff, Paul visited Newport during last year's Lighthouse Bicentennial. He decided to help us with our preservation efforts by creating these note cards for us. We are selling them for \$6.00 for a package of 10. (Add \$1.50 for postage.)



ARCHAEOLOGIST CHARLOTTE WATRIN takes a break from sifting through soil samples at our septic field site. The fragments of household china and glass which have been found will eventually be displayed in the first floor lighthouse museum.

#### ANNUAL CLAMBAKE A DE-LIGHT-FUL SUCCESS

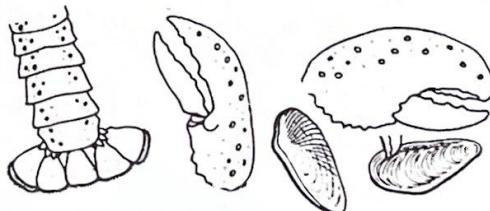
One hundred members and guests traveled by boat from Fort Adams through the fog to Rose Island for our annual clambake on Friday, September 14. Thanks to Bob Zeigler's efforts, the completed lighthouse exterior was truly a delight for everyone to see. For many, it was the first time they'd seen the building up close. Others who hadn't seen it in years couldn't believe their eyes--the transformation was so incredible.

The clambake, prepared by bakemaster Chris Barlow and his crew, was a de-light for everyone's tummy. It included garden salad, bread and butter, mussels steamed in wine, fresh sweet corn on the cob, boiled lobster and watermelon for dessert--all for a \$25 ticket!

Our special thanks go to all the generous local businesses that showed their support by donating food including Aquidneck Lobster, Blue Gold Sea Farm, Chart House, Chase Farm, Clarke Cooke House, Crest Farm, the Mooring Restaurant, and the White Horse Tavern, plus the liquor which came from the Blue Pelican, Bucci's Liquor, Fifth Ward Liquor, the Museum of Yachting, Newport Liquor Store, Rum Runner Liquor and Wellington Liquors. We also thank Vicki Little for coordinating these donations, for preparing the hors d'oeuvres and for her help throughout the evening. Hope Brewing Co. generously provided us with the beer. Thanks to them, we are reminded that "Hope is still brewing for Rose Island!"

Use of the old Prudence Island ferry boat PATRIOT was donated by Oldport Marine. Our thanks go to Ron Ackman and "Dragger Bill" for making sure everyone's trip was a safe one. And finally, but certainly not least, we appreciate the help of Joyce Botelho, Marge Bulmer, Alice Duce, Carol MacMurray, Kim Matheson, Steve Pollard and others who pitched in to lift, lug, serve, clean, sell tickets and tend bar throughout the evening.

Because the wind was out of the east, our bon fire couldn't be lit (lest the lighthouse be set ablaze by the sparks), but while we were eating and making merry, the fog miraculously lifted, setting the stage for our grand finale--the BOC's spectacular fireworks display from Fort Adams. What an experience! Thanks to the unselfish efforts of so many, a truly sensational time was had by all and \$2,500 was raised for the lighthouse!



"The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation News" is published by the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation (RILF), Charlotte Johnson, Editor. Bulk Rate postage paid at Newport, R.I. 02840. RILF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, dedicated to restoring and maintaining the Rose Island Lighthouse so it can be enjoyed by the public. Basic dues and contributions are tax-deductible.

Mail all correspondence to: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, R.I. 02840. Phone 847-4454, Charlotte E. Johnson, Secretary.

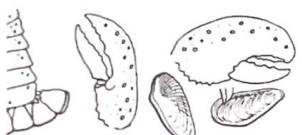


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The old Prudence Island ferry RIOT was donated by Oldport Marina. Our thanks go to Ron Ackman and "Bill" for making sure everyone's a safe one. And finally, but by not least, we appreciate the Joyce Botelho, Marge Bulmer, Alice M. MacMurray, Kim Matheson, Steve and others who pitched in to lift, move, clean, sell tickets and tend throughout the evening.

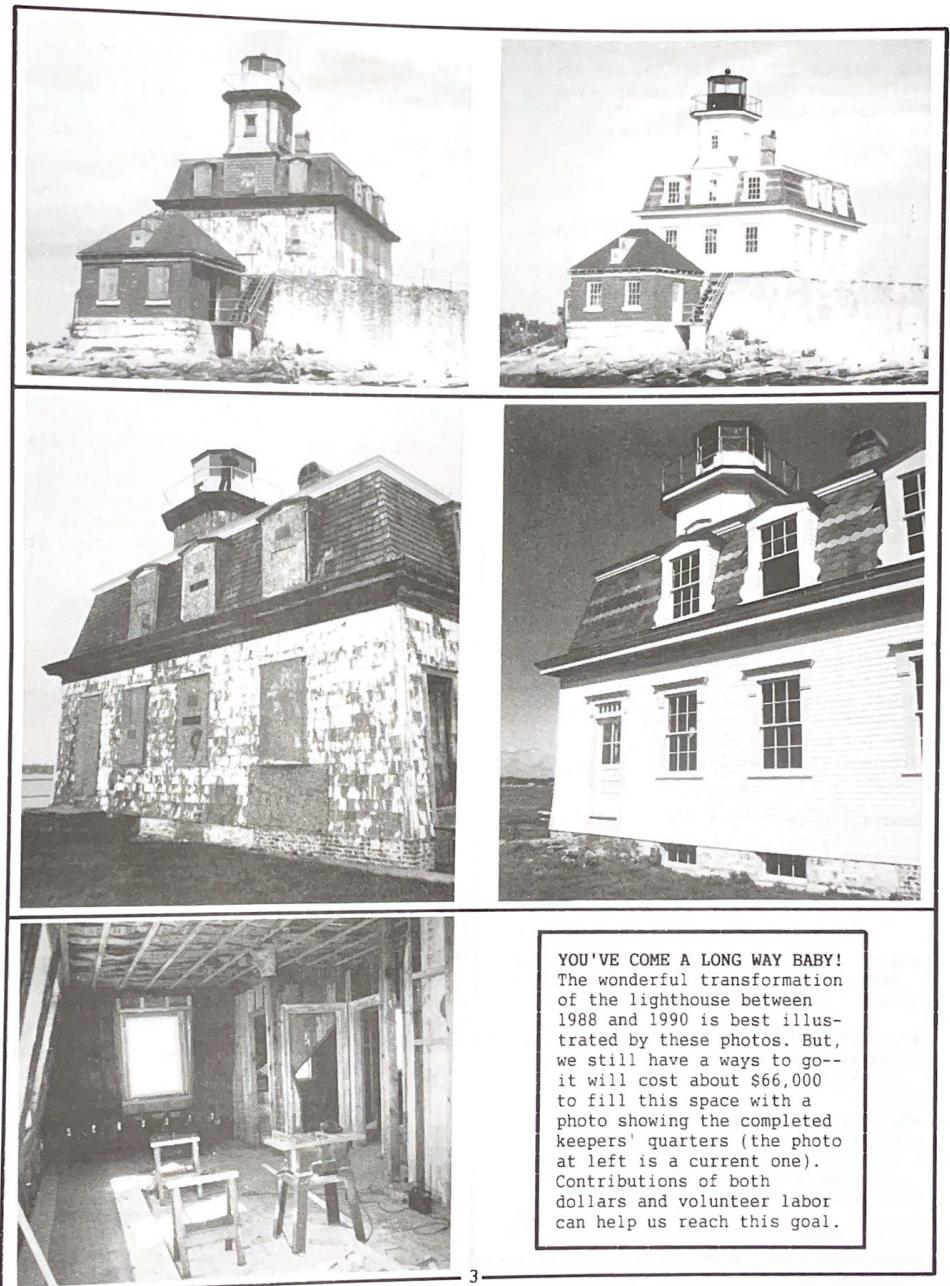
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Correspondence to: Rose Island Lighthouse P.O. Box 1419, Newport, R.I. 02840. 54, Charlotte E. Johnson, Secretary.

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**YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY!**  
The wonderful transformation of the lighthouse between 1988 and 1990 is best illustrated by these photos. But, we still have a ways to go--it will cost about \$66,000 to fill this space with a photo showing the completed keepers' quarters (the photo at left is a current one). Contributions of both dollars and volunteer labor can help us reach this goal.

**MEET BACKHOE AND BACKHOE, JR.** (as Jim Gillis named them). BACKHOE is owned by R.J. Cawley & Sons; BACKHOE, JR. is loaned to us by Mike Muessel and is operated by our own board member, Chris Barlow.



#### BUILDING STATUS REPORT

**CRMC Permit:** The last of our State permit hurdles was cleared in August when the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) approved our 800 gallon/day Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) to accommodate the lighthouse plus 100 visitors per day. We are grateful to Frisella Engineering of Wakefield for their work designing and installing our ISDS.

**Restrictions:** Some of the stipulations requested by the ISDS Division of DEM and the CRMC to which we agreed included:

\*Limiting the occupancy of the lighthouse to two bedrooms.

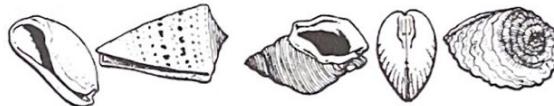
\*Using 1-gallon flush toilets while over-designing the septic field to accommodate 5 gallons per flush.

\*Protecting the nesting birds by publishing and posting notice of limited public access from April 1 to July 15.

\*Maintaining 8-foot wide paths through the natural vegetation for access from the beach to the lighthouse, picnic grounds and public toilets

**Building Budget:** So the lighthouse can be occupied by keepers, our immediate goal is to raise \$66,000. We estimate this will cover the costs to install the rest of the utilities, plus finish the keepers' quarters. Once keepers are in residence on the second floor, they will work with contractors and volunteers to complete the restoration of the first floor lighthouse museum. Then the public toilets need to be built...in all, we need to raise \$112,000 by June if the lighthouse is to be officially open to the public in mid-July.

**Volunteers needed:** Given the economy, these goals may seem optimistic, but we're still going to work towards them, realizing that volunteer labor can reduce the figures considerably. To this end, we are looking for volunteer plumbers, plasterers, carpenters and painters to help out early in the spring. If you would like to sign up for a work crew, please send in the form at the end of this newsletter, or call Curt Bunting at 846-4198.



THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE WANT TO SEE THE INSIDES OF THIS SEPTIC FIELD! Photo shows our completed septic field just before it was covered over with dirt. When the weather warms up next spring, our public toilets will be installed at the right hand side of this picture. To help get your bearings, the lighthouse is directly behind our engineer, Joe Frisella, who took this photograph.



LOOK, UP IN THE SKY!  
IT'S A BIRD!  
IT'S A PLANE!  
IT'S SUPER TRUCK!  
Yes, SUPER TRUCK was deposited onto Rose Island along with BACKHOE to play with BACKHOE JR for a week in our sandbox... er, septic field. A truly amazing and very expensive production!



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP for  
1990-91? Please check  
your mailing label to  
see if your membership  
is up to date.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street                      City                      State                      Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
days                      evenings

Dues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991 are as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 Student/Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Inspector	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 Assistant Keeper *
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 Associate Keeper *
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family/Business		<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Head Keeper *

\* As soon as renovations are complete, initiation for the "Keeper" membership categories will be a night for two at the lighthouse.

• Dues (marked above) are enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
• Additional contribution is enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
• \_\_\_\_\_ Packs of Rose Is. note cards x \$6.00 plus \$1.50 postage \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• I/we would like to volunteer to help, or wish to donate items for the museum as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: Membership dues and contributions paid to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purposes. Please mail this form and your payment to:

The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation  
P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840

Thank You!

*May your holidays  
be happy and bright!*



ROSE ISLAND  
LIGHTHOUSE  
FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 1419  
NEWPORT  
RHODE ISLAND  
02840

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Newport RI 02840  
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JOIN US FROM 11:00 AM-2:00 PM  
FOR OUR ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY  
POT-LUCK PICNIC ON ROSE ISLAND!